



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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October 12, 2006

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: WM-9
A2124

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe
Director of Public Works

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Wolfe", is written over the "FROM" line of the memo.

BOARD MOTION OF AUGUST 29, 2006, AGENDA ITEM 79 SOIL AND GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION AT THE FORMER ROCKETDYNE SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY CLEANUP AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

On August 30, 2006, your Board approved a motion by Mayor Michael D. Antonovich (copy attached) instructing the Directors of Public Works and Environmental Health to investigate the measures being taken by jurisdictional State and Federal agencies in response to information recently disclosed by Boeing Company (Boeing) regarding the nature of the materials previously disposed of at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. The motion also directed the Departments to consider any comments received from members of the public and other interested parties during the course of the investigation.

During the course of the investigation, we interviewed representatives from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Boeing. Comments from a County resident, Mrs. Christine Rowe, previously sent to Mayor Antonovich, have been responded to and considered as part of this investigation.

The Susana Field Laboratory is located entirely within Ventura County, approximately two miles west of the County line. A portion of the Susana Field Laboratory, Area I Burn Pit, has been known to be contaminated with hazardous chemicals. In January 2006 DTSC required Boeing to remove the contaminated soil around the Burn Pit. The removal was planned to be completed before the start of the storm season this year.

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On August 16, 2006, Boeing disclosed new information that suggested to DTSC the possibility that radioactive materials had been disposed of at the Burn Pit. If confirmed, this would trigger completely different remedial actions involving the Department of Energy under the radiological oversight of the California Department of Health Services.

As a result, on August 30, 2006, DTSC suspended all remedial actions at the Burn Pit and required Boeing to submit a detailed site characterization plan by October 1, 2006. Concurrently, DTSC required Boeing to implement surface water runoff controls prior to the storm season to prevent migration of pollutants off-site. According to DTSC, Boeing submitted a draft plan and requested an extension until November 30, 2006, for further revision by continuing a comprehensive search for historical records on waste handling at the Burn Pit.

The DTSC estimates a two-year delay in the cleanup schedule as a result of the new disclosure. A detailed staff report, which was prepared in consultation with Public Health, is attached for your reference.

If you have any further questions, please call me or your staff may contact Diego Cadena, Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4008.

YS:sw

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office
Department of Public Health